

Please add the following new claim:

a<sup>2</sup> --10. The polymerizable (meth)acrylic acid ester compound for an alkali-soluble resin of claim 1, wherein R<sub>1</sub> represents a hydroxyl group, R<sub>2</sub> represents a hydroxyl group, and R<sub>3</sub> represents a hydrogen atom.--

### REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 10 has been added by this instant Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111.

The present invention relates to a novel (meth)acrylic acid ester compound, with claims amended to recite for an alkali-soluble resin. Support for the amendment is found on page 1 of the Specification, under "Field Of The Invention", at lines 1-7. The instant invention can be preferably used as a photosensitive composition in the production of semiconductors such as IC, etc. Thus, the claimed compound has to be a polymerizable compound, as the amended claims recite. Support for such amendment is found on page 1 of the Specification, "Field Of The Invention", on page 2, in the fourth paragraph, at lines 14-18, and on page 15, 2<sup>nd</sup> line from the bottom thru page 16, at line 3, of the Specification.

The Ahlheim *et al.* compounds (specifically compounds 2-5 of Ahlheim *et al.*) are a structural isomer of the present compound, and therefore different.

The isomer of the present compound in Ahlheim *et al.* cannot be polymerized. The following data is experimental evidence supporting this statement:

13.8 g (30 mmol) of Compound 1 obtained in Synthesis Example 1 of the present application was dissolved in a mixture of 54 g of NN-dimethylacetamide and 6 g of THF. The

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mixture was then heated to 60 °C under a nitrogen atmosphere and stirred. After 1 hour, when the reaction temperature became stable, 375 mg (1.5 mmol) of a radical polymerization initiator V-65 (manufactured by Wako Pure Chemical Industries, Ltd.) was added to the reaction mixture. The solution was stirred over 8 hours and after the solution was cooled to a room temperature, the solution was charged into 1 liter of distilled water, and thus 13.2 g of the target resin was recovered in a white color powder form. The resin had a weight-average molecular weight of 21,800 in polystyrene conversion.

Similarly, a monomer compound which is a steric isomer with Compound 1 of the present invention was prepared, and then polymerization was attempted in the same conditions. The monomer was unchanged as it was and recovered.

The above effects are not obvious under the teachings of Ahlheim *et al.*

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such action is hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except for the Issue Fee, for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN,  
MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC  
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20037-3213  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

*for John Callahan Reg. No. 32,607*  
Brett S. Sylvester  
Registration No. 32,765

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